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Students Spend Summer Vacation Working at NASA Wallops Flight Facility

Most students take a break from educational activities during the summer and enjoy lazy days at the beach or vacations with their families. Sleeping late is not an option for nine local students that are spending their summer vacation working at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Students taking part in the 2002 Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) and the National Space Club Scholars are working eight-hour days, five days a week along side a NASA mentor at various locations at Wallops.

SHARP students are spending an eight-week internship and Space Club Scholars are spending a six-week internship that began on June 24 with a scientist, engineer, or technician in different fields ranging from computer technology to mechanical engineering and fabrication of payloads.

Applications for both programs are distributed to area high school guidance counselors in February of each year. Interested students then submit the applications to NASA. Selections for placement are made on a competitive basis. Once the students have been selected, they are assigned to work with a mentor in a specific area of science or technology.

Both programs offer an intensive science and engineering apprenticeship and are designed to increase, strengthen and diversify the pool of students for mathematics, science and engineering college majors and careers. During the summer stay, students have an opportunity to conduct meaningful research and participate in several educational and professional activities.

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The SHARP students are Sidrah Ahmad, Pocomoke High; Neil Bonsteel, Parkside High; Lucita Waters and Amanda Deal, Chincoteague High.

Space Club Scholar students are James Patnoe, Snow Hill High; Rudy Jadeja, Pocomoke High; Jenna Evans, Arcadia High; Nayo Howard and Roger Williamson, Parkside High.

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